

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme;

unloading from the memory of the workstation an unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files; and

saving settings relating to the unload file in the workstation before the unloading step, wherein the saving step includes saving changes made by a user to the unload file including at least one of display settings[,] and user viewing settings, ~~other changes to the original form of the unload file.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2, further comprising~~ A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

unloading from the memory of the workstation an unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files

saving settings relating to the unload file in the workstation before the unloading step, and

reloading the unload file onto the workstation from a server, and presenting the unload file in an identical form as last presented to the user before the unloading step by

utilizing the settings from the saving step, thereby the user perceiving the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.

5-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

unloading from the memory of the workstation an unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files;

wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to one of the user selected files that is a currently being used file than to each of the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the prioritization scheme does not give a higher priority to the first file than to a file that is part of a using stack designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 37, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

means for prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

means for unloading an unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of

at least one of the user selected files and wherein the means for prioritizing is coupled to the means for unloading.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for saving settings relating to the unload file before unloading the unload file, wherein the means for saving is coupled to the means for prioritizing.

a 15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for saving is configured to save changes made by a user to the unload file including at least one of display settings, user viewing settings, and other changes to the original form of the unload file.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for reloading the unload file onto the workstation from a server, and means for presenting the unload file in an identical form as last presented to a user before unloading of the unload file by utilizing the settings from the means for saving, thereby the user perceiving the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the user selected files include at least one open file stored in the memory and a new file to be stored in the memory.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for loading the new file from a remote unit to the workstation, and means for presenting the new file onto the workstation, wherein the loading and the presenting of the new file occurs after the unloading of the unload file.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for prioritizing and the means for unloading are configured to prioritize and unload, respectively, a plurality of times as desired to open each successive new file on the workstation.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the new file than to the at least one open file.

21. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to one of the user selected files that is a currently being used file than to each of the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack.

22. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.

23. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

24. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein each of the user selected files comprises image data representative of a plurality of images acquired from an imaging device.

25-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 26,~~ A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

a processor configured to prioritize the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

the memory configured to unload a unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files and wherein the processor is coupled to the memory;

wherein the memory is configured to save settings relating to the unload file before unloading the unload file; and

wherein the settings include at least one of display settings[,], and user viewing settings, and other changes to the original form of the unload file.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 26,~~ A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

a processor configured to prioritize the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

the memory configured to unload a unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files and wherein the processor is coupled to the memory;

wherein the memory is configured to save settings relating to the unload file before unloading the unload file; and

a' wherein the memory is configured to reload the unload file from a server, and further comprising a display coupled to the processor and configured to present the unload file in an identical form as last presented to a user before the unload file was unloaded by utilizing the settings, thereby the user perceives the unload file to have been virtually open throughout.

29-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 ~~38~~, wherein the prioritization scheme does not give a higher priority to the first file than to a file that is part of a using stack ~~designates a higher priority to the user selected files that comprise a part of a using stack than to each of the user selected files that is a related file.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25 ~~38~~, wherein the prioritization scheme designates a higher priority to each of the user selected files that is a related file than to each of the user selected files that is not a currently being used file, does not comprise a part of a using stack, and is not a related file.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

prioritizing the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

unloading from the memory of the workstation an unload file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files;

wherein the prioritization scheme gives priority to a first file over a second file based on the relationship of the first file to a third file, the third file having a higher priority than the first file and the second file.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein there is a currently used file being displayed on a display and the prioritization scheme only gives priority to the first file for being related to the third file if the third file is the currently viewed file.

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39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the prioritization scheme has at least three levels including

a first level comprising a currently viewed file;

a second level comprising files in a viewing stack; and

a third level comprising files related to files with a higher priority; wherein

the files from the first level are designated with a higher priority than files from the second level and files from the second level are designated with a higher priority than files from the third level.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the third level only comprises files related to files from the first level.

41. (New) A system for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

a processor configured to prioritize the user selected files using a prioritization scheme; and

the memory configured to unload a file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected files stored in memory, wherein the unload file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected files and wherein the processor is coupled to the memory;

wherein the prioritization scheme gives priority to a first file over a second file based on the relationship of the first file to a third file, the third file having a higher priority than the first file and the second file.

42. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein there is a currently used file being displayed on a display and the prioritization scheme only gives priority to the first file for being related to the third file if the third file is the currently viewed file.

43. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the prioritization scheme has at least three levels including

a first level comprising a currently viewed file;

a second level comprising files in a viewing stack; and

a third level comprising files related to files with a higher priority; wherein

the files from the first level are designated with a higher priority than files from the second level and files from the second level are designated with a higher priority than files from the third level.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the third level only comprises files related to files from the first level.

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45. (New) A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, comprising:

displaying a plurality of open medical images;

unloading an unloaded message selected from at least one of the plurality of open medical images from the memory of the workstation; and

saving display settings of the unloaded image such that if the unloaded image is not closed and a user decides to redisplay the unloaded image, the unloaded image appears to the user as if the unloaded image had not been unloaded.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the display settings are saved in the memory of the workstation.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the unloaded message is transferred to a storage device connected to the workstation by a network.